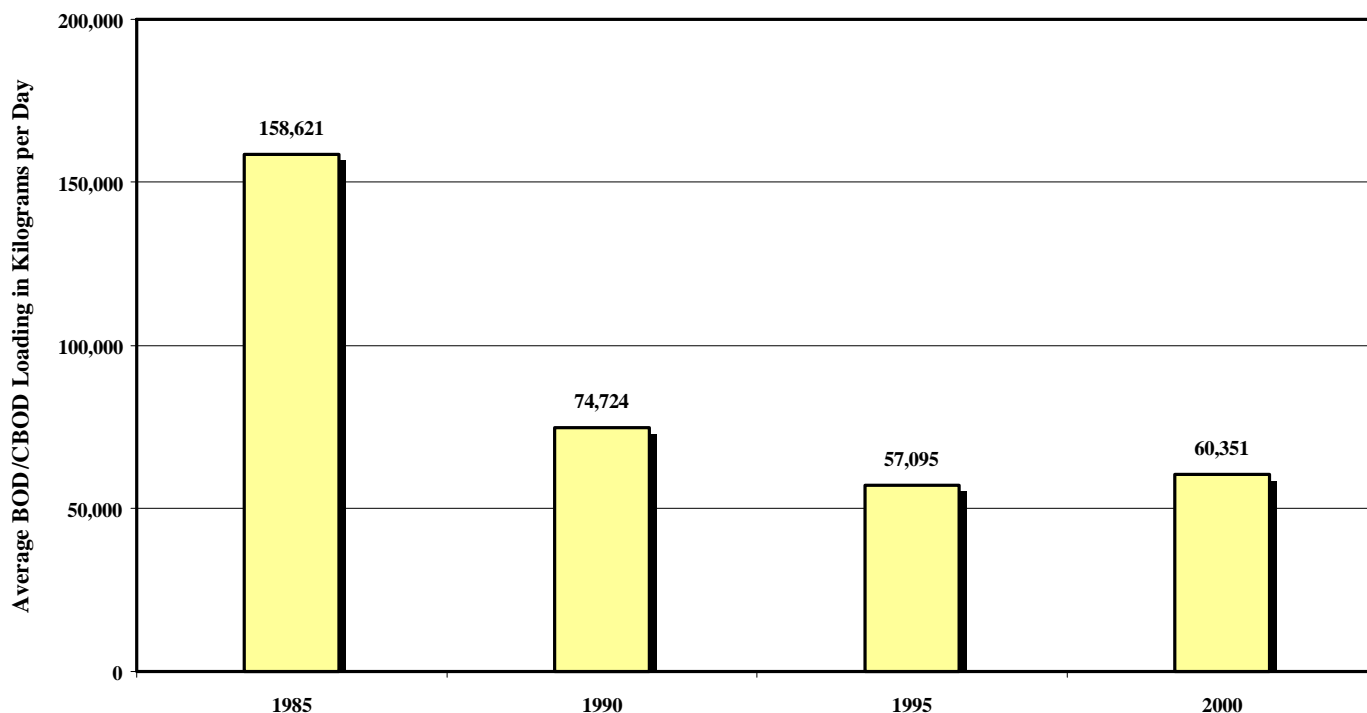


MILESTONE: Attain Surface Water Quality Standards by 2015*.

INDICATOR: Wastewater Loadings – BOD/CBOD

Municipal Point Source Loads of BOD/CBOD



Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD) and Carbonaceous Biological Oxygen Demand (CBOD) have been selected to indicate the overall effect of municipal wastewater treatment plants on the waters of the state. These tests indicate the amount of oxygen needed for biochemical degradation of organic materials in wastewater. Excessive BOD/CBOD (i.e., BOD or CBOD, or a combination of the two) loadings from plant discharges may reduce the ambient dissolved oxygen levels, thus stressing the aquatic community.

Municipal point source BOD/CBOD levels significantly decreased as a result of the federal mandate for secondary treatment in 1988. Although the number of residents in sewered areas has increased since 1990, significant changes to the overall BOD/CBOD loadings have not occurred. In order to achieve this milestone, progress must be made in many areas - BOD/CBOD discharges are one factor. As far as this parameter is concerned, however, earlier reductions are being maintained.

Data Source: NJDEP Division of Water Quality

** Including dissolved oxygen level standards.*

This fact sheet contains the most current, available data. For additional information on development of this indicator, please see the [Environmental Indicators Technical Report, 2nd Edition](#).